Remarks

Applicant has reviewed the Examiner's comments and does not agree with the interpretation of Applicant's claims nor of the cited prior art. Applicant notes that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, 15, 20-22, 24-26 and 33 are deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has the following comments.

Applicant's Application

Applicant refers the Examiner to the Background of the Invention, page 2, where Applicant has defined the problem in the state of the art as, emphasis added:

> "First, given the limited computational capabilities of these devices, it is often difficult to receive and process messages having dense or complex informational content, such as messages which include images, sound effects and/or complex textual formatting. This problem is compounded by limitations in wireless bandwidth.",

> "it often difficult, if not impossible, to view the content of document attachments on the conventional wireless communications device given the limited computational capabilities of these devices.", and

> "the computational and display resolution capabilities of these devices can vary considerably from manufacturer to manufacturer. Consequently, an electronic message configured for reception and review on one wireless communications device may not be accurately displayed on another wireless communications device."

Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that neither the teachings of MIME conversion nor the teachings of Shaffer for file format conversion address (nor state for that matter) the above-stated data resolution problems.

In contrary, Applicant describes and claims the conversion of message attachments to help address the above stated limited data resolution capabilities (e.g. processing and/or display and/or audio) of the communication devices. Applicant provides amended claim

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I below, emphasis added, as an illustrative example of claim amendments for the purpose of addressing the Examiner's objections, also discussed below. In particular, Applicant notes in the claims that the data size contained in the attachment document as received is greater that the data size of the converted data sent to the network terminal, as matched to the data resolution capabilities of the network device according to knowledge of a specified data resolution level for the converted attachment data, which is absent from the teachings of prior art conversion systems.

Claim 1 - An electronic data transmission server comprising:

a data receiver for receiving a request for transmission of an incoming message including an attachment document to a network terminal over a communications network, the attachment document having attachment data including content for presentation on the network terminal and presentation data defining the presentation of the content on the network terminal;

a data processing system in communication with the data receiver for converting the attachment data in accordance with the at least one data filtration parameter representing a specified data resolution level to accommodate data resolution capabilities of the network terminal, the data processing system configured to perform the conversion by reducing the number of bytes occupied by the attachment data according to the specified data resolution level in order to provide converted data including at least one of reduced content and reduced presentation data; and

a data transmitter in communication with the data processing system for transmitting an outgoing message containing the converted data to the network terminal over the communications network.

Accordingly, in view of the above representative claim, Applicant submits that conversion of the attachment data (including content for presentation on the network terminal and presentation data defining the presentation of the content on the network terminal) is done using knowledge of a specified data resolution level that takes into account the data resolution capabilities of the network terminal. Applicant submits that none of the cited art teaches or even suggests this use of a specified data resolution level.

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Applicant also notes the Examiner's statements in item 3 of the current office action. Applicant disagrees with the statements "applicant argues that Shaffer does not disclose displayable text and does not disclose providing the original unchanged text message" and "it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies are not recited in the rejected claim(s)". In response, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the claimed passage of "attachment data including content for presentation on the network terminal and presentation data defining the presentation of the content on the network terminal". This passage refers to the more generic case (as evidenced by the deemed allowable dependent claims 2,3,5,6) of content for presentation (e.g. text, images, etc.), which can be broadly construed to include the meanings of displayable text, displayable images, and other information presentable to the user of the device (e.g. played audio files), for example. Applicant therefore believes that the claims as presented include at least "displayable text" as content. This is of course contrary to the operation of MIME, as further discussed below, through which MIME converted <u>ASCII characters</u> are not intended to be "presented" on the network terminal, rather to be used as an intermediate form suitable for message transmission purposes only.

Examiner Cited Art

<u>MIME</u>

Applicant notes Examiner's citation of Shaffer, column 1, lines 47-50, which describes the MIME conversion, as a basis for the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection. Applicant is confused by the Examiner's reasoning for relying upon this passage to support the rejection, as MIME is simply a conversion of a stream of binary 8 bit data, to a stream of 7-bit <u>ASCII characters</u> (not presentable content — e.g. text, images, etc.) for message transmission purposes. Applicant strongly believes that MIME conversion to ASCII <u>characters</u> does not result in displayable text <u>(or other presentable information)</u> for use by the user of the network terminal for interaction with the attachment, e.g. reading and understanding the text (e.g. content) of the attachment as intended by the original attachment sender. Instead, Applicant submits that ASCII conversion results in an unintelligible string of characters (not "text"), used for encoding readable text for message transmission purposes only. This string of unintelligible characters <u>must be</u> subsequently <u>decoded</u> at the target destination, once received, in order to provide the <u>original unchanged</u>

message data, which is contrary to the invention as claimed directed to <u>reduced content data and/or reduced presentation data</u>.

In view of the above, Applicant invites the Examiner to provide an example where original message data is first encoded using MIME techniques for subsequent presentation and interpretation in its un-encoded form (i.e. ASCII characters) by the intended recipient of the original message data. Applicant provides a simple definition obtained via the Internet from the University of Maryland, Office of Information Technology, which supports Applicant's view of MIME as a messaging protocol, nothing more;

> " Today's computer technology thinks in 8-bit bytes. When information is transmitted these days, its usually done so in an 8-bit fashion. However, there are instances when a transport medium will only handle 7-bits. Furthermore, when it comes to E-Mail, there must be some consideration for systems that are based upon IBM's EBCDIC (Extended Binary Coded-Decimal Interchange Code), rather than the ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) code that we are most familiar with. MIME makes sure that messages meet these criteria! ".

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Examiner has incorrectly interpreted MIME as conversion from a formatted Word Processing document to a text document, which Applicant points out that MIME is in fact a conversion (both encoding and subsequent required decoding) to data packets as ACSCII characters for transmission, nothing more. MIME does not result in the reduction of the number of bytes occupied by: the content for presentation on the network terminal; and/or presentation data defining the presentation of the content on the network terminal. Accordingly, Applicant submits that MIME does not teach or even suggest addressing data resolution capabilities of a network terminal via using a specified data resolution level to convert attachment data, as claimed.

Shaffer

Further, Applicant submits that Shaffer itself <u>only</u> describes a method and system for exchanging electronic messages, such as email messages, that include isolating personal computers and other

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client devices from the process of converting a message attachment from <u>one file format (e.g. a proprietary format word document) to a second file format (e.g. a Microsoft format word document), based on available applications having the ability to process the second file format but not the first file format</u>. In Shaffer's disclosure, file-format conversions are out-tasked to enhance file accessibility, free computer resources, and conserve a user's time. In particular, Shaffer describes that the access requirements of each attachment (to electronic messages) are compared to the <u>application</u> capabilities of a target client device. This is contrary to the applicant's claims as presented, which include a reduction in data resolution of the attachment data based on a specified data resolution level via the data filtration parameter. Shaffer is silent on the use of specified data resolution level as a basis to select one file format over another.

Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that Shaffer further states "Thus, if a file attachment is received that requires an application that is "foreign" to the receiving computing device, the first issue is whether the computing device is capable of converting the attachment to an accessible file format". Applicant submits that this should be interpreted to mean that Shaffer places emphasis on the ability of the target client device to open the message attachment, rather than emphasizing <u>changes</u> to the contents of the attachment to address <u>the data resolution capabilities of the network terminal via the specified data resolution level, as claimed</u>.
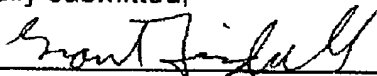
Applicant further notes that Shaffer states in column 1, lines 55-64 that "Even if the attached file is properly decoded at the receiving client device, the file will not be accessible unless the client device has the <u>required application program for opening</u> the attached file. Typically, an attachment has a <u>file format that is specific to an application</u>. For example, an email attachment of a word processing text file may be specific to a particular word processing program. Access to the text is possible only if the receiving client device includes the program or has the capability of converting the decoded file to another file format that is accessible.", <u>emphasis</u> added. Applicant submits that this should be interpreted to mean that Shaffer places emphasis on the ability of the target client device to open the message attachment, rather than emphasizing <u>changes</u> to the data of the attachment to address <u>the data resolution capabilities of the network terminal</u>.

Conclusion

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In light of the above remarks and the amendments submitted herewith, the Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 23 are novel over the cited references to date, taken either alone or in combination. As the remaining claims are dependent on, and narrower than, independent claims 1, 10, 19, and 23 the Applicant submits that these claims are similarly novel over the cited reference.

It is believed that the above remarks and amendments submitted herein have placed this present application in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is requested. If the Examiner has further concerns, he is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned agent at (416) 862-4318. All correspondence should continue to be directed to listed address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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